United Nations E/2017/SR.42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017

Original: English

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 July 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President). . . . . (Czechia)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(g) Public administration and development

(k) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*)

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(f) Population and development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

17-11466 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(g) Public administration and development (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8)

1. **Mr. Castelazo** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), introducing the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8) and speaking via video link from Mexico City, said that the Committee of Experts on Public Administration had met in New York in April to examine the challenges facing public administration in ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was at the centre of the Committee's work and the principle of leaving no one behind should be a core principle of public administration of all countries. The eradication of poverty through sustainable development had important implications for public administration; that Goal must be pursued at all levels of Government. Local authorities and communities had a critical role to play, and in 2016 the Committee had recommended that such communities adopt local versions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenge was finding ways to support them in implementing the Goals.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8)

2. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A
Draft resolution: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session

3. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B
Draft decision: Provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

4. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(k) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*) (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8)

5. **Mr. Besseau** (Canada), Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests, introducing the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8), said that the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests had been the first session after the historic adoption of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 by the Forum and then by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The strategic plan was a landmark plan of action representing a global commitment to achieve the Forum's six global forest goals and associated targets by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum had held a series of panel discussions on critical issues that considered the contributions made by forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on forests and poverty eradication, forests and food security, forests and gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and means of implementation for sustainable forest management. Those discussions had benefited from the participation of experts and senior representatives from a wide range of partners and stakeholders, including organizations that were members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The main issues and ideas that had emerged from those panel discussions were contained in the report and also in the Forum's input to the 2017 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Voluntary national contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets, means of implementation, and enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues were among the elements of the draft resolution adopted by the Forum, and brought to the Council's attention in the report.

Draft decision: Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session and provisional agenda for its thirteenth session

6. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session and provisional agenda for its thirteenth session", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8).

7. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2017/3)

Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up: Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the recommendation contained in chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2017/3). She took it that the Council wished to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2017 session.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **Ms. Sutton** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the recommendation that the Council should transmit to the high-level political forum on sustainable development the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations in the report. In so doing, the United States reaffirmed the statements, clarifications and disassociations made by its representative when the forum had adopted the draft intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements (A/72/8 ; E/2017/61; E/2017/L.26)

11. **Mr. Decorte** (Acting Director of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2017/61) and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8), said that sustainable urbanization had become part of the development agenda. Sustainable Development Goal 11 ("Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable") recognized cities as catalysts of development.

12. A joint vision of urban planning, building and management had been developed, and awareness had grown around the need to support a paradigm change in the existing urbanization model. In October 2016, Member States had adopted the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The New Urban Agenda gave concrete guidance on how to make use of the opportunities provided by urbanization, so that it could be an engine of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development and environmental protection.

13. During the period covered in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2017/61), UN-Habitat had actively participated in meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and other Goals with an urban dimension, prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, articulated a national approach to monitoring a sample of cities, and worked to improve the feasibility of individual indicators. It had collaborated with the regional economic commissions in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and helped the commissions to prepare their regional reports for Habitat III. Member States were encouraged to consider the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report.

14. Turning to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8), he said that the twenty-sixth session, as the first session following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, had had special significance. Its theme had been "Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda" and it had highlighted the importance of empowering local governments and other stakeholders to play a role in the process. The Governing Council had adopted nine resolutions, including one on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and another entitled "Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response" to better support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in countries affected by conflict and/or natural and human-caused disasters.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.26: Human settlements

15. **The President** invited the Council to turn its attention to draft resolution E/2017/L.26, entitled "Human settlements", submitted by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. **Mr. Viera** (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution.

17. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.26 was adopted.*

18. **Mr. Maturu** (Observer for Kenya) said that his country had joined the consensus on the decision of the Council to transmit the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda to the General Assembly and looked forward to the effective implementation of that report, the first report to be produced following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

Oral decision

19. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8).

20. *It was so decided.*

Item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions *(continued)*

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2017/62 and E/2017/L.27)

21. **Mr. Ussing** (Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)), introducing the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (E/2017/62), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2015/2, said that since the last UNAIDS report to the Council in April 2015, the international community had adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which included a commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy was the first in the United Nations system to be aligned with those Goals. In the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted by the General Assembly in June 2016, Member States had agreed on a set of specific targets to be attained by 2020. Accordingly, and in the light also of evidence-based programmatic approaches, many countries had adopted and implemented policies and programmes leading to a rapid increase in access to treatment and a decrease in AIDS-related deaths. There had also been a decrease in new HIV infections, thanks in particular to significant domestic and international investments in prevention, confirming that ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 was achievable.

22. Substantial advances continued to be made in the global AIDS response, predominantly through increased access to antiretroviral treatment, up from under 3 million receiving such treatment in 2005 to 18.2 million by mid-2016. While, however, AIDS-related deaths had fallen by 45 per cent since 2005, more still needed to be done to prevent new HIV infections, in particular by higher investment in prevention and scaled-up services. Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe stood out: the HIV infection rate had dropped by more than 50 per cent in all three countries between 2003 and 2015. Among children, there had been steady progress in the reduction of HIV infection, which had fallen by 51 per cent between 2010 and 2015, thanks in part to efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission. The progress was not unrelated to increased domestic investment in the AIDS response, which had grown to more than 70 per cent of the AIDS budget in Botswana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa, propelled by the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity in combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

23. AIDS was nevertheless the thirteenth cause of death globally, the second cause of death in Africa and the leading cause of death worldwide among women of reproductive age. In 2015, 36.7 million people had been living with HIV, including 2.1 million newly infected in that year. Sub-Saharan Africa remained the most heavily affected region, with 66 per cent of new HIV infections. Women, particularly those in the 15-19-year-old age group, continued to be affected at a higher rate than men and some specific populations were disproportionately affected. Moreover, the increased domestic investment had flatlined in the previous four years in low-and middle-income countries, and at a significantly lower level than had been agreed to be necessary.

24. The Joint Programme was providing assistance in over 100 countries, with focused attention on fast-tracking the response in 35 priority countries, which together accounted for 82 per cent of people living with HIV, 78 per cent of annual new HIV infections and 91 per cent of children born with HIV. It continued to be the only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations system and had been recognized by the Council as a model for the achievement of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities. Just one week previously, its Coordinating Board had reaffirmed its critical role in leading the global AIDS response. The Board had requested the Joint Programme to follow up

on the recommendations of the Global Review Panel for a refined operating model and had approved its 2018-2019 budget, based on the key principles and modalities established by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The refined framework was more streamlined and better reflected regional differences; it also called for greater use of co-sponsors' own mobilization frameworks.

25. The funding environment was such that the Joint Programme needed to work in new ways and with significantly fewer dedicated HIV staff, in particular within the co-sponsoring organizations. Member States must therefore give more support to co-sponsors in mobilizing and leveraging more resources for HIV work, which should be further mainstreamed into their broader development work.

26. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS had generated great optimism, but the fact remained that 18 million people were still awaiting treatment and that there were 6,000 new HIV infections every week among young women in sub-Saharan Africa. UNAIDS counted on the continued support of the Council in combating the scourge and thereby contributing to development, health, gender equality, equity and human rights.

27. **Mr. Löbel** (Germany) said that global health, including the end of the AIDS epidemic, was at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals and that, at the current time of leadership transitions, it was more important than ever to guide the international community towards a coordinated and effective response to that global challenge. Draft resolution E/2017L.27, which the Council would be considering at the current meeting, captured the unique multisectoral and human rights-based nature of the Joint Programme, bringing together the UNAIDS Secretariat and its 11 co-sponsors. The decisions adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board would further improve the operation of the Joint Programme and help to maintain it as a model for United Nations collaboration and reform.

28. **Ms. Randik** (Estonia) said that UNAIDS, the World Health Organization and other stakeholders had taken commendable steps to prevent and control HIV/AIDS but that critical challenges remained, including the discrimination and stigma that surrounded the disease. Effective care and continuing active participation in social, family and working life must be ensured through testing and early diagnosis; a community-based approach and advocacy were crucial. Innovative approaches, developed through private-public cooperation, were needed. She cited the example of her own country, where HIV-positive patients could connect with their doctors via a digital platform. Co-infections, for instance with tuberculosis or hepatitis A, were also a cause of concern, as were the correlations between migrant flows and HIV. Estonia and Croatia were the only Eastern European countries to have successfully graduated from donor-based financing of HIV/AIDS response. She called on national Governments to increase their investments in HIV/AIDS response and reiterated her Government's full commitment to tackling the challenges involved.

29. **Mr. Chakeche** (Zimbabwe) said that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was a heavy burden on sub-Saharan Africa and that his country welcomed the progress made in combating it. However, only by maintaining the necessary political will and financial commitment, and stepping up efforts to address the remaining challenges, could the epidemic be ended by 2030. His delegation was concerned about the funding gap for the global response and believed that the international community should prioritize investments to that end in a spirit of shared responsibility and global solidarity. Zimbabwe, for its part, had seen a significant decline in HIV/AIDS incidence through its work on the UNAIDS 90-90-90 initiative and the population-based HIV/AIDS impact assessment. It had also introduced an AIDS levy that had enabled it to continue providing antiretroviral therapy to those in need, including women and children. Young women and girls were indeed disproportionately affected by the pandemic in the sub-Saharan region, making it all the more necessary to eliminate all forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against them. His Government had drawn lessons from the response to the pandemic, particularly that it could not be addressed in isolation but must go hand in hand with the empowerment of women, gender equality, poverty eradication, sustainable national health-care systems, food security and social protection for vulnerable groups. With its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder response, and its interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals, the Joint Programme could contribute to the United Nations development system, serving as a pathfinder for the 2030 Agenda.

30. Zimbabwe attached great importance to its partnership with the Joint Programme and, as a past member of the Coordinating Board, was pleased that the goals and targets of the UNAIDS Strategy for 2016-2021 underpinned the commitments set out in the 2016 Political Declaration. If the Strategy's targets for an accelerated response were met by 2020, it would put the world on a firm path towards ending the epidemic

by 2030. His delegation supported the efforts to refine and strengthen the operating model of the Joint Programme and called for its full funding to enable it to achieve its goals.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.27: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

31. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana), co-facilitator, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of her country and the United Kingdom, which were serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, said that, through the continued commitment of the international community, extraordinary results had been achieved in tackling the disease. The Joint Programme had continued to play a critical role in the HIV/AIDS response and had adapted itself to the changing context. The international community was, however, at a critical juncture, faced with a worrying decrease in investments, notably in the Joint Programme, which needed to function effectively in order to fast-track the response in accordance with the 2016-2021 Strategy. The draft resolution reflected that concern and also the common commitment to work with and through the Joint Programme to reach the targets agreed in the 2016 Political Declaration, with a view to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030.

32. **Mr. Hickey** (United Kingdom), co-facilitator, said that his Government, which remained committed to ending the epidemic by 2030, was concerned about the funding gap of the Joint Programme. Predictable, sustainable financing was essential for its effective functioning. The United Kingdom had concluded a five-year funding agreement for UNAIDS; Ghana had doubled its own contribution to the Joint Programme. He called on other donors, current and new, to continue or to join those efforts.

33. **Mr. Dolbow** (United States of America) said that all the efforts made by the international community had set the tone for the work ahead to end the epidemic globally by 2030. It was, however, critical for all the partners to continue to fast-track the response and for there to be continued global solidarity and an increase in shared responsibility and strategic investment. All Governments should redouble their efforts to that end, in particular by aligning their resources with the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. As 2020 drew near, it was growing ever more necessary to ensure political, programmatic and financial accountability and sustainability at all levels of the response.

34. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

35. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.27 was adopted.*

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2017/73)

36. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to approve the list of nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contained in document E/2017/73 that had requested to be heard at the high-level segment of its 2017 session.

37. *It was so decided.*

Item 18 : Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(f) Population and development (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6)

38. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar), Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, introducing the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6), said that it had focused on the special theme "Changing population age structures and sustainable development", with particular attention to Chapter VI of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The participants had generally agreed that long-term changes in the age distribution of the human population needed to be taken into account as Member States sought to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite extensive informal consultations, however, no consensus had been reached, on all the issues addressed in the draft resolution prepared on the special theme; the deliberations in connection with it were therefore summarized in the report.

39. The report also contained three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council: one, in two parts, whereby the Council took note of the Commission's report on its fiftieth session and approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-first session; the other two on aspects of the Commission's methods of work that required further clarification, namely, the Commission's multi-year work programme and the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. An overview of the deliberations and of the substantive documents that had helped to inform the discussion was set out in the summary of the report, which had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council. The report also contained two

decisions adopted by the Commission at its April session, which were brought to the attention of the Council.

40. As for the Commission's failure to achieve consensus on a draft resolution on the special theme of the session, she said that she shared the concern of many delegations that that had happened twice in the past three years. She called on Member States to continue discussing the important topics debated by the Commission since its first session in 1947 and, in future, to strive even harder to reach consensus on them. Her own country, Qatar, stood ready to support the Chair and Bureau of the Commission during its fifty-first session and to work with other Commission members to reach a consensus in 2018.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6)

41. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-first session

Draft decision II: Report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Draft decision III: Multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, including the cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

42. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.